

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 06698

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: FURTHER COMMENT ON
REINFORCEMENT AND RESERVE MOBILIZATION TORS

REF: (A) USNATO 6472 DTG 061820Z JUL 77, (B) USNATO 6530
DTG 071233Z JUL 77, (C) STATE 157058 DTG 062300Z JUL 77,
(D) USNATO 6592 DTG 081745Z JUL 77, (E) USNATO 6597 DTG
081813Z JUL 77

1. WE HAVE RE-EXAMINED FURTHER THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR THE TASK FORCES ON REINFORCEMENT (REF A) AND RESERVE
MOBILIZATION (REF B), WITH A VIEW TO IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL
PROBLEMS CONCERNING OVERLAP. (WASHINGTON WILL RECALL THAT
THE US ORIGINALLY PROPOSED THAT REINFORCEMENT AND RESERVE
MOBILIZATION BE UNDER A SINGLE TASK FORCE DIRECTOR, WHICH
WOULD HAVE MINIMIZED POTENTIAL FOR OVERLAP.) WE NOTE THAT
REF C, COMMENTING ON AN EARLIER DRAFT OF REF B, SUGGESTS
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ADDING "PLANS FOR TRANSPORTATION (INTRA-NATIONAL AND INTER-
NATIONAL) OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT" TO THE REQUIREMENT TO
"OUTLINE THE VARIOUS NATIONAL MOBILIZATION PROCEDURES".
SUCH A REQUIREMENT WOULD SEEM TO OVERLAP UNNECESSARILY WITH
THE WORK THAT THE REINFORCEMENT TASK FORCE SHOULD ACCOMPLISH
CONCERNING BOTH INTRA-THEATER AND INTER-THEATER MOVEMENT OF
FORCES, SUPPLIES, AND EQUIPMENT.

2. IN ADDITION, WE NOTE THAT REF C RECOMMENDS THAT THE RESERVE MOBILIZATION TASK FORCE SHOULD FOCUS ON LAND AND AIR MOBILIZABLE RESERVES. PURSUING THIS RECOMMENDATION WILL REQUIRE SOME SUPPORTING RATIONALE. THE US APPEARS TO BE ADVOCATING HANDLING MARITIME ISSUES ON AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT BASIS FROM OTHER PRIORITY AREAS, CUTTING ACROSS THE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY BELONGING TO SEVERAL TASK FORCES. WHILE THIS MAY REPEAT MAY FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE MARITIME TASK FORCE, WHICH HAS A FORMIDABLE JOB AHEAD OF IT, IT COULD BE VIEWED IN SOME QUARTERS AS AN INCONSISTENT DIVISION OF LABOR WHICH DENIES THE RESERVE MOBILIZATION TASK FORCE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEAL WITH A MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENT OF ITS SUBJECT AREA.BENNETT

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